

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend claims 7 and 14 and cancel claim 10 as set forth below. Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as set forth below in the listing of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting in a subject a cellular proliferative disorder associated with pancreatic cancer or colorectal cancer, comprising:

- a) contacting a nucleic acid-containing specimen from the subject with an agent that provides a determination of the methylation state of a preproenkephalin (ppENK) gene; and
- b) identifying aberrant methylation of regions of the gene or regulatory region, wherein aberrant methylation is identified as being different when compared to the same regions of the gene or associated regulatory region in a subject not having said cellular proliferative disorder, thereby detecting in the subject a cellular proliferative disorder associated with pancreatic cancer or colorectal cancer; _____

wherein aberrant methylation comprises hypermethylation when compared to the same regions of the gene or associated regulatory regions in a subject not having the cellular proliferative disorder.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the regions of said gene are contained within CpG rich regions.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the regions comprise regulatory regions of the gene.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is a pair of primers that hybridize with a target sequence in the gene or associated regulatory region of the gene.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the nucleic acid-containing specimen comprises colonic tissue or pancreatic tissue.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the nucleic acid-containing specimen is selected from the group consisting of serum, urine, ~~saliva~~, blood, duodenal fluid, pancreatic fluid, ~~cerebrospinal fluid~~, ~~pleural fluid~~, ascites fluid, ~~sputum~~, stool, and biopsy sample.

Claims 15-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the primers pairs are selected from

5'-TTGTGTGGGGAGTTATTGAGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:115);
5'-CACCTTCACAAAAAAAATCAATC-3' (SEQ ID NO:116); and
5'-TGTGGGGAGTTATCGAGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:117);
5'-GCCTTCGCGAAAAAAATCG-3' (SEQ ID NO:118).

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the cellular proliferative disorder is pancreatic cancer.